

McLean County Museum of History

Parker Brothers Coal & Lumber Co. Collection

Collection Information

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 2 boxes |
| COLLECTION DATES: | 1862-1984 |
| RESTRICTIONS: | None |
| REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: | Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History |
| ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: | None |
| OTHER FINDING AIDS: | None |
| LOCATION: | Archives |
| NOTES: | Donated by George Parker. |

Brief History

Founded in Bloomington in 1868, Parker Brothers continued under Parker family ownership for over one hundred years. Although the family sold the firm in 1971, some family members continued to work for the successor firm.

Foster Krum also conducted a grain, coal and lumber business in Bloomington during the 1860s. Later, the firm was known as Krum and Robinson.

Scope

The collection includes company sales books, account books, and a time book as well a correspondence, newspaper articles and miscellaneous for Parker Brothers. Four of the account books appear to be for Foster Krum.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper Clippings about the Company

(*Pantagraph* unless otherwise indicated.)

- 1.1.1 “Unusual Corn Crib at Carlock,” captioned photo, undated.
- 1.1.2 “Curved Roof Pattern on Sabina Farm,” captioned photo, undated.
- 1.1.3 “Parker Bros. Expand Facilities,” captioned photo of new builder’s store at 923 E. Grove, undated.
- 1.1.4 “For Three Generations . . . Parker Bros,” advert 26 August 1930. Shows Silo Handled Rescreened coal at silo. Undated.
- 1.1.5 Advert for Parker Brothers Builder’s Store and Lumber Yard, 4 Mar 1954. 2 copies.
- 1.1.6 “Parker Bros—An Old Firm, but a New Store,” in *Illinois Building New*, April 1954. pp 52 & 54.
- 1.1.7 “Company Awards 50 Year Customer Free Coal Supply,” 25 Jul 1957. Firm gave Mrs. David Briggs a free year of coal. With photo.
- 1.1.8 Captioned photo of Mrs. David Briggs in *The Retail Coalman*, Aug 1957.
- 1.1.9 “Parker Firm 100 Years Old” and “Old Ledger Guide to Firm’s History” both in *Pantagraph*, 30 Jun 1968.
- 1.1.10 “Do you remember?” Reprint of 1933 photo with Parker coal for special train. 1 Feb 1980.
- 1.1.11 “Do You Know?” Reprint of photo (same as immediately above), *The Penny Saver Community News*, 27 Apr 1983.
- 1.1.12 “Now You Know,” *The Penny Saver Community News*, 11 Apr 1984. Discusses same photo, adding some recollections by George H. “Hub” Parker.

Folder 2: Coal Co Correspondence

- 1.2.1 Four letters, two from The Black Diamond in Chicago and two from Sahara Coal Company in Chicago, August 15-23, 1957.

Folder 3: Miscellaneous

- 1.3.1 Catalog for Parker Bros. Lbr. and Fuel Co, 1957. 18 pp.
- 1.3.2 Customer order for salt, 7 Jun 1973?
- 1.3.3 Photocopies of two pages from 1872 city directory.

Loose Books:

Parker Brothers Company Time book, 8 Dec 1917 - 24 Jan 1920 (in box 1)

Foster Krum company sales and account books: (in box 1)

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| March 1863 - March 1866 | Foster Krum |
| March 1863- November 1865 | Foster Krum |
| April 1865 – Jun 1866 | maybe Foster Krum – unclear. |

Parker Brothers Coal & Lumber Company account books: (in box 2)

July 1868 – March 1874
August 1872 – August 1874 Accounts receivable ledger.

Account book for Foster Krum & Robinson, grain coal lumber business (in box 2)

March 1863 – April 1868